

As of January 13, 825 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation site. Of those, 448 were infested host trees and 377 were high-risk exposed host trees. An additional 12 trees originally thought to be at-risk host trees were found to be infested when taken down and cut open. Crews continued to work this week in and around Joseph Medwick Park in West Carteret.

As the first phase of tree removals continued in the core area of the infestation, that area of West Carteret and the Avenel section of Woodbridge along the Carteret border, more trees are being identified and reclassified from high risk exposed host trees to infested trees. Approximately 1,000 host trees are being removed during this phase. More than 4,000 host trees will be removed over the next several months.

Eleven program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJDA and NJ Forest Service are performing survey and regulatory activities in the Middlesex/Union ALB infestation site with 59,092 trees inspected to date.

Seven program personnel continue to perform survey and regulatory activities in the Jersey City Quarantine with 6,935 trees inspected in the past year in Jersey City. There has been no further evidence of the beetle since the initial take-down of trees in Jersey City.

A total of 100 letters were sent this week to companies under compliance agreements. The letter included an updated map of the Middlesex/Union ALB quarantine zone, which was expanded to from 10.5 miles to 12.1 miles on December 27, 2004.

As tree removal operations continue, program personnel on site are providing information to homeowners, businesses owners and public officials concerning the ALB program's survey, tree removal and reforestation efforts.